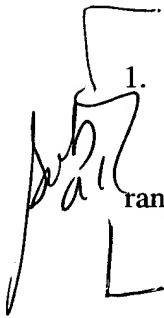


What is claimed is:



1. A variable output RF power amplifier comprising:  
voltage regulator means for producing a specified voltage within a  
range of voltages in accordance with a control signal; and  
a power amplifier having the specified voltage as a supply voltage.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the voltage regulator means  
comprises a first switch-mode converter stage and a second linear regulator stage.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the switch-mode converter stage  
provides coarse level control and the linear regulator stage provides fine ramp con-  
trol.

4. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the power amplifier is hard-lim-  
ited.

5. The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the power amplifier is a satu-  
rated amplifier selected from the group of Class A and Class AB amplifiers. *Class AB and Class C*

6. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the power amplifier is a switch-  
mode amplifier.

7. The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the power amplifier is a Class C  
amplifier.

8. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the switch-mode converter stage  
provides level control and ramp control.

9. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the linear regulator stage pro-  
vides ramp control and level control.

9.

10. The apparatus of Claim 2, further comprising means for receiving said control signal and in response thereto producing a first control signal for the switch-mode converter stage and a second control signal for the linear regulator stage.

11. A method of controlling a power level of a power amplifier, comprising:

generating a specified voltage in accordance with a control signal;

and

applying the specified voltage to a power amplifier as a supply voltage of the switch-mode power amplifier.

Sub  
a2

Add  
B1

Add  
C4